

Minutes of Prudential Committee Meeting
February 6, 2017

Present: David Zamojski, Chairman, Prudential Committee
Jay DiPucchio, Prudential Committee Member
John Zellmann, Fire Chief
Eileen Tela, District Accountant
David Thompson, Finance Committee
Don Reid, Finance Committee
Allyson Greene, Finance Committee
John Greene, new Prudential Committee Member

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes of prior meeting – Minutes were approved for the January 3rd meeting.

Invoice warrants – were reviewed and signed by the Prudential Committee.

Finance Committee – Two new Finance Committee members were recently appointed by our Moderator: Don Reid and Allyson Greene.

Prudential Committee – Rich Kuklewicz recently resigned from the Prudential Committee citing conflict of interest, since he is on the Town of Montague Select Board. Motion was made by David Zamjoski to appoint John Greene to the Prudential Committee until our next election this coming April, and Jay seconded. All in favor.

Budgets – Chief has two FY18 budgets – one budget with current staffing. He noted that callbacks increased 9.3% over last year. He reviewed this budget. Ambulance budget draft was also reviewed. John also presented second FY18 fire budget showing the hiring of another two firefighters with a 4.34% increase in the fire budget. Benefits are in the Gen Govt. budget.

FY18 General Govt. budget was also reviewed. Accountant explained the insurance increase and noted the large retirement assessment increase.

Painting apparatus bay – This was recently completed and looks good.

RR Salvage fire – Costed the District a total of \$15,631. Two large invoices for excavation and heavy equipment needed for the fire have not been paid (total \$7,189) and Eileen recommended this be paid from the Finance Committee reserve fund of \$10,000, which in the past has been used for such an emergency. Prudential Committee agreed and all three Finance Committee members voted in favor of using these funds for these two invoices.

Strathmore building – Special Town meeting scheduled for March 2 to deal with boarding up this property.

Run reports – January was a slower month with 69 calls; including 39 EMS calls with 7 transports. Chief has been forwarding the monthly Matris reports to the Prudential Committee regarding EMS calls.

SAFE grants - John noted that we were awarded another Student SAFE grant for \$3,088 and Senior SAFE for \$2,596.

SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) bottles - Ours were purchased approximately 15 years ago with an AFG grant, but we need to start replacing them. 48 bottles will need to be replaced in about two years. Grants are more scarce now. Cost from Scott is about \$23,500 for 20 bottles. There would be a cost to change to another brand.

Ladder truck – Our 1989 ladder truck is now 28 years old and there is a need to start planning for a new one, which will cost about 1.1 million. Fire Dept. is in process of writing specifications for what they need. Leasing will also be an option. Chief will continue to gather more information about new ladder trucks. Discussion followed about past experience with the COG trying to move forward about regionalization study. Conversations are continuing with Montague Center.

Special Article requests – as mentioned above - for SCBA bottles and appropriation towards ladder truck and a used ambulance.

Military policy – will be discussed at our next meeting. This needs to be finalized.

Upcoming elections – Two new candidates have taken out nomination papers for the Prudential Committee and our Treasurer for the past 18 years is not running for re-election. However a candidate has taken out a nomination paper for the Treasurer's position.

Free cash has not yet been certified. We are expecting it at any time. It should be certified for about \$263,000. Since the ambulance enterprise fund did not start until July 1, 2017, we will also need a special article to transfer the ambulance fund FY16 net income to the ambulance fund. This figure will be included in the free cash. \$30,000 was suggested for the used ambulance special article.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 6th at 5:00 p.m.